



BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

MAY 1996



BUNCOM DAY WILL CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL OF POST OFFICE

Mark your calendars and make your plans for **Saturday, May 25**, when we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Buncom Post Office.

It was in 1896 that the U.S. Post Office Department approved establishment of the country office to serve about 175 people estimated to live in the vicinity. The Post Office remained in operation until 1917.

The Centennial will be celebrated at this year's Buncom Day, on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** at Buncom. Gov. John Kitzhaber has declared the day "Buncom Historical Day" throughout Oregon.

Music, food, arts and crafts vendors, a parade, farm demonstrations and children's activities will be part of the celebration. And

HARLEY HALL IS GRAND MARSHAL

Harley Hall, son of one of Buncom's postmasters, is Grand Marshal of the Buncom Centennial Celebration. Harley grew up on the Little Applegate and, with his wife Vernice, has lived here most of his life.

the highlight will be the re-opening of the Post Office as a working post office for the day.

Centennial Co-chairmen are Carolyn Roberts and Connie Fowler. They still need help -- see the committee flyer attached.

Jacksonville Postmaster Nick Moon will set up shop to stamp and cancel your cards and letters with a special commemorative Buncom cancellation. Also available will be

THE CENTENNIAL CANCELLATION



special cacheted envelopes and a new Buncom postcard. The Applegate River Ranch House Restaurant will return again this year with their red oak barbecue, and the Valley of the Rogue Bank stagecoach will give rides throughout the day and carry the mail away.

Connie Fowler's musical group, Good Comp'ny, will be on hand along with a few musical surprises. It is possible that the Buncom Bandit, or some of his fellow Western Desperadoes, will make an appearance.

There will be a parade at 1 p.m., and demonstrations of farm activities all day long. Once again, there will be a petting zoo for the kids, and arts and crafts vendors will

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We still need more help with the Centennial. See the attached sheet and call Carolyn or Connie to volunteer!

display and sell their wares. A Country Store will offer antiques and collectibles, plants and flowers, donated by members.

We will have drawings for many door prizes, and a silent auction.

There will be a food sale, with baked goods and some special Buncom Centennial items -- a special Centennial labelling of two Valley View wines, our own Cafe Buncom Blend produced by Mellelo Coffee Roasters of Medford, and Centennial tortas from Rising Sun Farms of Phoenix.

What would a celebration be without t-shirts and mugs? We'll have Centennial editions of those, too. And the famous Buncom Chicken-Splat Contest will return!

There is no admission charge for the Centennial. Everyone is welcome.

WORK PARTY ON MAY 18

Help us get Buncom ready for the Centennial! There will be a volunteer work party on Saturday, May 18, at 10 a.m. Bring a broom, rake or weed-eater. It shouldn't take long, because the grounds are in good shape this year.

GOVERNOR, COUNTY MARK CENTENNIAL DAY

Gov. John Kitzhaber has proclaimed May 25 as "Buncom Historical Day" throughout Oregon. He and Secretary of State Phil Keisling signed a proclamation urging "all citizens to join in this observance."

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners is proclaiming May 25 as Buncom Centennial Day in the county.

In the Governor's proclamation, he noted the "significant contribution" made by the Society in preserving Buncom.

"Whereas, the Society is marking the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Post Office with a Centennial Celebration on May 25, 1996, to honor the memory of those who

settled the farms and ranches around Buncom," the proclamation reads,

"Now, therefore, I John A. Kitzhaber, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim May 25, 1996, to be Buncom Historical Day in Oregon and encourage all citizens to join in this observance."

HISTORIC ROAD SIGNS MARK BUNCOM

Visitors to Buncom no longer have to guess what the buildings are as they approach. Jackson County Roads and Parks Services has installed road signs on both Little Applegate and Sterling Creek roads that say "Historic Buncom." The signs are cream on brown, the standard colors for historical signs in Oregon.

The county department also provided the "Special Events" signs for last year's Buncom Day, and we will be using them again this year to caution motorists to drive slowly.

Our thanks to Director Joe Strahl and his staff for their continuing interest in and support of Buncom.

WANTED: PARADE PARTICIPANTS

Young, old, big and small --

A parade brings lots of excitement,
Help us make Buncom's 100th celebration
a real success!

We're looking for participants in the
Centennial Parade:

- Children to decorate and ride bicycles, animals, wagons, etc.
- Neighbors with tractors, old cars, wagons, animals, etc.
- Teens to march and play drums or march as a musical group.
- Any other ideas would be greatly appreciated.

Call Georgia at 899-9165.

CREW REPAIRS ROOFS, CLEANS OUT COOKHOUSE

We took advantage of Spring Break to hire two college students to put new tarpaper on the Bunkhouse and Cookhouse roofs. Also, too many years of storing leftover Buncom Day items, plus the accumulation of decades, had left the Cookhouse filled with trash. They also spent a day cleaning it out.

POSTMASTER NICK MOON TO OPEN POST OFFICE

Jacksonville Postmaster Nick Moon will be on hand personally to open and operate the Post Office at the Centennial. He hopes to be in period costume to gather and stamp letters and cards mailed from Buncom on its one official re-opening day.

Nick has been a supporter of the Post Office Centennial since we first started discussing it, and we thank him for his interest and support.

THANKS TO POSTAL ARTIST EVELYN BRYAN

We have been very fortunate to have local artist Evelyn Bryan design our Centennial postal cancellation, and guide us through the intricacies of designing and producing special commemorative cachet envelopes.

Evelyn is known nationally for her postal art, and her cancellations and envelope designs have been the centerpiece of many special occasions.

Our thanks also to the Southern Oregon Philatelic Society and particularly Buncom Society member Len Lukens, who helped arrange and coordinate our postal effort.

BUNCOM FEATURED IN PEAR BLOSSOM PARADE

Ten Society members got the ball rolling for the Centennial by appearing in Medford's Pear Blossom Parade April 13. President Reeve Hennion drove a tractor as the "Mayor of Buncom" while the others carried signs publicizing Buncom and the Centennial. Those participating included Reeve and his wife Lyn, Harley and Vernice Hall, Ellen Knapp and her daughter Donna, Duane and Kathy Bowman, and Chuck and Ruby Drobkiewicz.

Connie Fowler painted the signs, and the tractor was courtesy of Country Farm Center in Medford.

MEMBERSHIP AT ALL- TIME HIGH

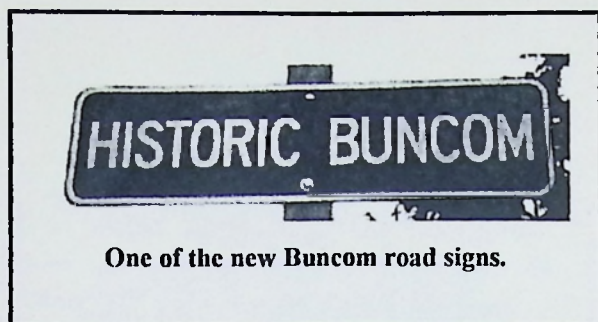
Society membership has reached 218, the highest ever in our history! Thanks to you all for your interest.

HORSELESS CARRIAGE CLUB VISITS BUNCOM

On Sunday, April 14, about 20 vintage cars and their drivers and families visited Buncom on a Horseless Carriage outing. They were greeted by Reeve and Lyn Hennion, who told them of the history of Buncom and our Centennial plans.

Five families joined the Society on the spot, and several said they will be at the Centennial.

There was a lot of nostalgia as the old cars gathered around the Buncom buildings reminded those who were there of what it was like a half-century ago. But there probably were never that many cars at Buncom at one time!



One of the new Buncom road signs.

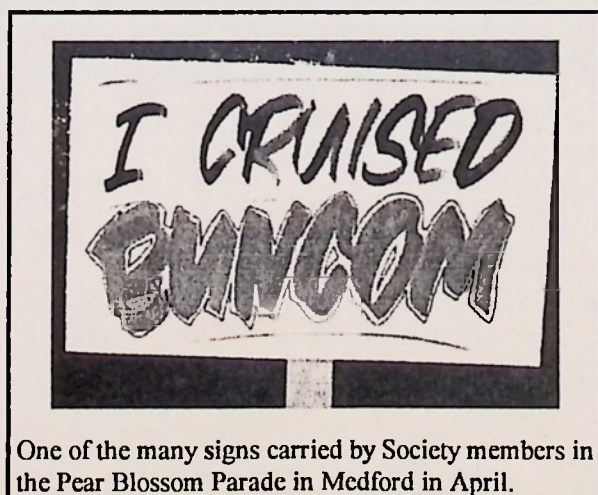
BUNCOM FEATURED IN "REVIEW"

Buncom was featured on the front page of the March issue of the Jacksonville Review. Pictures of the buildings and a fine story about the Society's activities, including the Centennial, were included. Our thanks to Woody Hunter, who has been a steady supporter of Buncom.

MANY MERCHANTS SUPPORT CENTENNIAL

We are grateful for the support of so many local merchants and organizations toward making our Centennial a rousing success. Many of them are listed in this newsletter. We will have a complete list of all of them in our next newsletter.

Please be sure to patronize them and when you do, tell them you appreciate their support of Buncom.



One of the many signs carried by Society members in the Pear Blossom Parade in Medford in April.

A REMINDER OF BUNCOM'S HISTORY

As we gather for the Post Office Centennial, we should remember what we are celebrating.

While Buncom was first populated by miners in the 1850s, it wasn't until well after the demise of Sterlingville and the settling of permanent residents that the need for a Post Office arose.

In his application to the U.S. Post Office Department, Jacob Parks, who would be the first postmaster, stressed the need for mail service at Buncom. He noted that the nearest Post Offices were at Jacksonville and at Watkins, 20 miles south.

Parks estimated that there were some 175 people living in the area served by the proposed post office.

Within months the application was approved, and the Buncom Post Office opened for business. Mail was delivered from Jacksonville by stage twice a week.

The Post Office continued in operation until 1917.

DIRECTORS

Reeve Hennion, President	899-7656
Lyn Hennion	
J.B. Roberts, Secretary	899-1125
Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer	
Ron Marchetti	899-1263
Donna Marchetti	
Ben Fowler	899-7805
Connie Fowler	

The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon.

Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet: <http://www.mind.net/buncom/>

BUNCOM CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

MAY 25, 1996

CHAIRPERSONS: Connie Fowler (899-7805) and Carolyn Roberts (899-1125)

ANIMAL DEMONSTRATIONS and ACTIVITIES: CHICKEN SPLAT: Donna Marchetti (899-1263)
HAYRIDE:)

HORSESHOEING: Bruce Roberts (899-1125)

PETTING ZOO:)

SHEEPSHEERING: _____

CLEANUP Coordinator: _____

COUNTRY COSTUME BACKDROP PORTRAITS: Photographer _____

COUNTRY MUSIC Coordinator: Connie Fowler (899-7805)

COUNTRY STORE Coordinator: Meyera Robbins-Gordon (899-8366)

COUNTRY ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS: Coordinator: RoseMarie Leever 899-7188

MUGS: Connie Fowler 899-7805

SHIRTS Ron Marchetti 899-1263

SPINNING DEMO: Donna Marchetti (899-1263)

CANOE-BUILDING DEMO: Buck

BUNCOM CERAMIC SOUVENIERS: Lilli Ann Rosenberg (899-7861)

LEATHERCRAFT: Ellen

DOOR PRIZES (RAFFLE) Coordinator: Don Flower (899-7575)

FLOATER Coordinator: _____

FLOATERS (to work an hour or two helping at a table so the regular operator can enjoy the fun elsewhere--We need lots of floaters! Kathy Kent, Karen Salant, Kathy Bowman, Cheryl Pinnel _____)

FLOWERS AND PLANTS Coordinators: Matt Epstein (899-8644) & Barbara Krack (899-1100)

FOOD: BAKE SALE, SNACKS & BEVERAGES: Vernice Hall 899-8794

BARBECUE: Applegate River Ranch House--Coordinator: Lyn Hennion 899-7656

GOLD-PANNING: Coordinator: Larry Goins (482-5980)

PARKING: Bruce Roberts (899-1125)

PARADE Coordinator: Georgia Todd (899-9165)

PIONEER FAMILY REGISTRAR (to take instant photos of those whose families lived here fifty or more years ago, get a little history of the family and make a bulletin board display) _____

PORTA-POTTIS Ron Marchetti (899-1263)

POST OFFICE: Lyn Hennion 899-7656

PUBLICITY Coordinator: Reeve Hennion (899-7656)

SEATING and TABLES: (Setup & Return) Coordinator: _____

SILENT AUCTION: Coordinator: Sharon Baldoni (899-7964)

STAGECOACH Coordinator: Lyn Hennion (899-7656)

WILD WEST SHOW: Rick Barker

HELP NEEDED!!!

The many coordinators who volunteered at the Buncom Historical Society annual meeting are busily arranging the details of their activities. But, as you can also see, there are a number of blanks we hope will soon be filled by those of you who would enjoy participating. Please call Connie (899-7805) or Carolyn (899-1125) to tell us how you would like to join the fun!

DONATIONS NEEDED!!!

THE COUNTRY STORE is stocking up. We hope to include the following in our inventory:

New-looking, fashionable clothing, accessories, gifts and furniture,

Home-grown flowers, fruits, vegetables and eggs

Used books and collectible magazines

Your own hobby creations and handicrafts--birdfeeders, potholders, notecards, wreaths, toys, holiday decorations, stitchery, etc. You price it and if it doesn't sell, take it back.

Call Meyera (899-8366) about your contributions.

THE BAKE SALE needs donations of homebaked cookies, breads, pies, cakes, and snack foods. Vernice Hall (899-8794) would like to know what to expect, but you can just show up with your specialty if you get a last-minute urge!

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OREGON



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: The town of Buncom was first settled by gold miners in the 1850s and later became an important supply center for the farmers, ranchers and loggers living in the Little Applegate Valley; and

WHEREAS: A Post Office was established at Buncom in 1896 to serve the needs of residents until it was closed in 1917; and

WHEREAS: The Buncom Historical Society was established in 1991 to preserve the three remaining buildings at Buncom, Southern Oregon's last standing ghost town, and the history of the Little Applegate Valley; and

WHEREAS: The Society has grown to nearly 200 members and has made a significant contribution to the State of Oregon by preserving Buncom as a symbol of our heritage of hard-working and dedicated pioneers; and

WHEREAS: The Society is marking the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Post Office with a Centennial Celebration on May 25, 1996 to honor the memory of those who settled the farms and ranches around Buncom.

NOW,
THEREFORE, I, John A. Kitzhaber, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim May 25, 1996 to be

BUNCOM HISTORICAL DAY

in Oregon and encourage all citizens to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand
and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to
be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem
in the State of Oregon on this day, April 3, 1996.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John A. Kitzhaber".

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Phil Keisling".

Phil Keisling, Secretary of State



ORDER YOUR DOOR PRIZE TICKETS NOW!

Again this year, Don Flower is putting together a tremendous list of door prizes to be awarded to lucky winners at the Centennial, including:

- A night's lodging at the McCully House.
- Gift certificates from local restaurants
- Toys from Scheffel's Toys
- Toy tractors and manual sprayer from the Country Farm Center.
- Buckles from the Siskiyou Buckle Co.
- And many more to come

He has tickets available at 2 for \$1 or 12 for only \$5. Drawings will be held throughout the Centennial Day. You don't have to be present to win, but if you are, you can choose your prize.

Tickets, of course, will be available at the Centennial. But if you can't be with us on the 25th, or if you'd like some tickets to offer to your neighbors, co-workers, friends or others, give Don a call at 899-7575 or return the tear-off below!

TO: Don Flower, 4600 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530

____ Please send me ____ tickets for the door prize drawings.

____ They're for me, so I have enclosed a check for ____ for ____ tickets!

____ I will be offering them to others, so I will return money with the stubs!

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Buncom Historical Society
3232 Little Applegate Road
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Eagle Point Hist. Society
P.O. Box 201
Eagle Point, OR 97524
F.

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